

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 MC-02 ACDA-05 /091 W

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P 120227Z MAR 76

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5291

INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0435

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CB ZA

SUBJECT: FOREIGN DIPLOMATS' OBSERVATIONS ON ALLEGED U.S. BOMBING
OF SIEM REAP

REF: STATE 54860, LUSAKA 592

1. I CALLED ON ZAMBIAN AMBASSADOR MASIYE MARCH 11 TO
DISCUSS ALLEGED US BOMBING OF SIEM REAP. AFTER I
CATEGORICALLY DENIED THAT US PLANES INVOLVED IN ALLEGED
SIEM REAP BOMBING, I INFORMED MASIYE THAT, IN
LIGHT OF PUBLICITY CAMBODIA HAD GIVEN TO INCIDENT
TO COMMENTS SUPPOSEDLY MADE BY SOME VISITING
ENVOYS, INCLUDING HIMSELF, WE HAD ALSO SOUGHT TO
SET RECORD STRAIGHT IN SEVERAL CAPITALS, INCLUDING LUSAKA.
AT HIS REQUEST, I READ TO HIM RADIO PHNOM PENH'S
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VERSION OF HIS REMARKS.

2. MASIYE FIRST RESPONDED FLATLY THAT HE HAD ONLY EXPRESSED REACTION TO GREAT DESTRUCTION WHICH OBVIOUSLY HAD FRESHLY TAKEN PLACE, BUT HAD NOT RPT NOT LINKED DESTRUCTION TO UNITED STATES. HE NOTED THAT HE HAD SEEN NO DIRECT EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT SUCH A CHARGE AND THAT HIS MILITARY EXPERIENCE HAD TAUGHT HIM HOW DIFFICULT IT IS TO IDENTIFY TYPES OF AIRCRAFT, DESPITE WHAT HIS CAMBODIAN BRIEFER HAD SAID. HE ASKED THAT I RE-READ RADIO PHNOM PENH'S VERSION OF HIS REFERENCE TO TME US, AND THEN SAID, FIRST, ACCURACY COULD EASILY HAVE BEEN LOST IN CAMBODIANBAFRENCH-ENGLISH INTERPRETATION AND, SECOND, HE DID NOT HAVE COMPLETELY FIRM RECOLLECTION OF WHAT HE HAD SAID, BUT COULD NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR CAMBODIAN VERSION. HE REQUESTED THAT I OBTAIN FOR HIM TAPERECORDED VERSION OF RADIO PHNOM PENH'S BROADCAST, I TOLD HIM I WOULD BE GLAD TO ATTEMPT TO DO SO BUT STRESSED OUR INTEREST IN FIRMLY REGISTERING FACT THAT US HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH FEBRUARY 25 SIEM REAP INCIDENT. HE PROMISED TO SO REPORT.

3. CONVERSATION WAS FAIRLY AMICABLE, BUT SHORTENED BY ARRIVAL OF ANOTHER VISITOR AND WE DID NOT DISCUSS OTHER ASPECTS OF HIS TRIP.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: IF POSSIBLE, DEPARTMENT PLEASE FORWARD ASAP TAPED RECORD OF RADIO PHNOM PENH'S MARCH 4 BROADCAST COVERING ZAMBIAN AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS. IF NOT POSSIBLE, PLEASE ADVISE.
THAYER

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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